

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A TRIO OF NEW BIRDS FROM TROPICAL ASIA

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An owl, a bulbul, and a spider-hunter from southeastern Asia have proved to require subspecific separation. For the loan of material essential to this study I am indebted to the authorities of the Sarawak Museum (Kuching) and of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), and for comments on specimens not personally examined to Mrs. B. P. Hall of the British Museum.

I.

In a review of the races of the collared scops owl (Auk, vol. 67, 1950, p. 197), the author left the population of Borneo nameless, with the suggestion that it might eventually be shown to represent a valid subspecies. Through the interest of the authorities of the Sarawak Museum, I have before me 17 new specimens of this population, to add to two already in the U. S. National Museum, and it now becomes possible to give nomenclatorial recognition to the Bornean bird.

Since the new race needs comparison primarily with the well-known *Otus asio lempiji* of Java, it will be necessary to review the characters of that form, which occurs in three color phases: 1) a "gray" one, with the upper parts gray-brown, marked with grayish white or buffy gray, and the under parts gray or buffy gray; 2) an "intermediate" one, with the upper parts similar but more nigrescent, and the under parts grayish buff; 3) a "red" one, with the upper parts dull rufescent brown, marked with pale buff, and the under parts dull ferruginous buff.

The new race may be called

Otus asio lemurum, subsp. nov.

Type: U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 461686, adult male, collected at Kanowit, Sarawak, on April 29, 1952, by Alastair Morrison; original number 1/52; presented by the Sarawak Museum.

Diagnosis: In its "red" (and apparently most frequent) phase, nearest Phase 3 of *lempiji*, but differing by having the upper parts ferruginous brown, marked with ferruginous buff, and the under parts ferruginous; in its "intermediate" phase, with the upper parts similar to those of the "red" phase, but more nigrescent, and marked with less vivid buff, the under parts similar to those of the "red" phase, but slightly duller in tone; in its "gray" phase (apparently the least frequent), variably intermediate between the Phases 2 and 3 of *lempiji*.

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Range: Borneo, and probably the Northern Natuna Islands.

Remarks: As type specimen I have selected an average example of the "red" phase.

II.

The race of the bulbul, *Microscelis flava*, inhabiting southern Annam, while strikingly different from the gray-backed, black-capped race *bourdellei* of regions just to the North, is outwardly so similar to *davisoni* of central Tenasserim as to have long been confused with it. The Annamese bird is, however, separable, and I name it

***Microscelis flava remotum*, subsp. nov.**

Type: U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 360982, adult female, collected at the Lang Bian Peaks, southern Annam, in December 1939, by Joseph F. C. Rock; original number 1133.

Diagnosis: Nearest *M. fl. davisoni*, but differing in freshly moulted adults by having the upper tail coverts much more strongly washed with olive green, and by having the outer edges of the inner primaries, the secondaries, and their coverts, and also of the rectrices, slightly more broadly margined with an outwardly more golden olive-yellow.

Range: Southern Annam (Lang Bian Plateau) and probably southern Laos (Boloven Plateau).

III.

***Arachnothera chrysogenys harrissoni*, subsp. nov.**

Type: U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 182609, adult male, collected at Labuan Kelambu [lat. 1°15' N., long. 118°39' E.], Borneo, on June 24, 1913, by Harry C. Raven; original number 869.

Diagnosis: Separable from *A. chr. chrysogenys* of Java, Sumatra, the Malay Peninsula, and probably western Borneo, by having the mantle almost devoid of golden suffusion, so that it is nearly concolorous with the crown, and the exposed portions of the closed wings similarly much less strongly suffused with golden bronze; thus, in its upper aspect, the new form is generally lighter and duller than the nominate race.

Range: Known only from the type locality (11 adult specimens).